

May is GoGreen Month! Here is some green news about the new Main Library.

Your new green Cambridge Public Library will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified by the United States Green Building Council.

Here are just some of the initiatives:

- **Bamboo** was chosen as flooring for the new rooftop children's room because it is a **sustainable building product**. It is actually a grass not a tree and consequently grows very fast and is plentiful. Bamboo grows back in three to five years.
- We replaced the old open parking lot with an underground garage. By putting the parking underground, we had room for a large landscaped and wonderful new children's play area. In fact we could say we created an extraordinary '**green roof**' for our garage!
- Many of the windows that you see in the new building do open. The entire front of the new addition is a **double skin curtain-wall** which is like a giant insulated window helping to warm us in the winter and cool us in the summer.
- We are using a **day-lighting system** which has sensors to turn off lights when there is enough light from the sun. There are **occupancy sensors** in all small rooms that turn off lights when they are unoccupied.
- We have used products with **no volatile organic compounds (VOCs)** commonly found in floor glues and carpet glues, and we are flushing the air of any residue from solvents or other air borne compounds before we open.
- The library will use **low water flush toilets** and sinks with automatic sensors.
- Our building contractor **recycled 96% of our construction waste**. Materials such as wood crates, paper, building materials and old stone were set aside for re-use.
- There is a **350,000 gallon underground water tank** by the front entrance that is used to catch storm water runoff from a portion of the city. The tank is part of a large MWRA project to control run-off and reduce localized flooding

Information courtesy of Warren Pearson, Clerk of the Works for the Library Building Project